THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a Unit of this Department, has identified Titanium bearing minerals and ores *viz.*, 461.37 million tonnes of ilmenite, 26.82 million tonnes of rutile and 16.07 million tonnes of leucoxene so far. India Rare Earths Limited, a public sector undertaking under the Government of India and Kerala Minerals and Metals Limited (KMML) & M/s. Travancore Titanium Products Limited, PSUs of the Government of Kerala and a few private companies are commercially exploiting the Titanium bearing mineral deposits.

(c) to (e) Considering the vast deposits available in the country, to increase the rate of exploitation of the minerals and also to attract more investment in this sector, alongwith latest technology for value addition within the country, the Government has undertaken a comprehensive review of the National Mineral Policy.

(f) and (g) While dialogue at the exploratory level is going on with certain overseas enterprises, for last few years, no concrete proposals have fructified till date, which are under consideration of Government.

Rehabilitation package to people residing near mines

1025. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Uranium mining is hazardous to the people residing near mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof regarding the proposed uranium extracted places; and

(c) whether there is any rehabilitation package available to the people residing near Nallagonda in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Various studies undertaken to evaluate radiological impacts indicate that uranium mining will not have any adverse impact, when carried out in a scientific manner with adequate environmental safeguards.

(c) Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL) has drawn a comprehensive Rehabilitation and Resettlement scheme which will be implemented in consultation with the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Tailing ponds of UCIL

1026. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL) tailing ponds are health risk for the villagers of adjoining areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps Government are taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) No, sir. The Tailings Ponds of UCIL are well engineered and properly managed repositories of neutralized waste emerging after recovery of uranium from low grade ores. the Tailings Ponds are properly fenced and the low levels of Gamma Radiation and Radon emanating from the deposited tailings are confined within the Tailings Pond boundary.

The Health Physics unit of BARC at Jaduguda carries out environmental monitoring of the region. The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board and State and Central Pollution Control Boards review the monitoring results and inspect the site periodically to enforce compliance with the regulatory norms.

Supply of uranium for nuclear power plants

1027. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) in view of the situation arising out of non availability of urea due to depending on high cost imported urea, whether Government have visualized the similar scenario may emerge in power sector, also if the country depends on the imported uranium for running nuclear power plants as the international cost of uranium may go high, leading to escalation in cost of power; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to meet the impending situation thereof?